

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Currently Amended) A computer executable data structure comprising:
  - a first data structure that describes one or more classes which define programmatic objects;
  - a second data structure that describes members of each class and comprises compound members that allow mapping of complex members as inline members of a given class, which allows inline mapping of arrays, structs and entity key members; and
  - a third data structure that describes relationships between objects, wherein the described classes, members, and relationships provide information that can be utilized by a computer to persist object data to a database, wherein an object schema that describes data classes as well as relations between the data classes as specified in an object oriented model, is generated and utilized together with a relational schema and a mapping schema to map the programmatic objects to tables in the database;
    - wherein the mapping schema provides the mapping between the object schema and the relational schema, and the relational schema utilizes metadata associated with the database to generate an implementation specific format that represents the database structure;
    - wherein members of a class include fields and properties; and
    - wherein the member properties include an alias attribute that is employed by a query language to identify a private member used to generate a query, the alias points to identify a public member that is to be utilized in place of a the associated private member in text of a query.
2. (Canceled)
3. (Previously Presented) The data structure of claim 1, wherein a field includes a key attribute that defines whether the field is an object key.

4. (Previously Presented) The data structure of claim 1, wherein the properties include a path attribute that delimits the context of a class.
5. (Canceled)
6. (Original) The data structure of claim 1, wherein the members are compound members comprising members and other compound members.
7. (Original) The data structure of claim 6, wherein the compound member is an array.
8. (Original) The data structure of claim 6, wherein the compound member includes a type attribute that defines the type of data identified by the compound member.
9. (Original) The data structure of claim 1, wherein the third structure includes a type attribute that defines relationships between objects.
10. (Original) The data structure of claim 9, wherein the relationship is one of one-to-one, one-to-many, or many-to-many.
11. (Original) The data structure of claim 1, wherein the database is a relational database.
12. (Original) The data structure of claim 1, wherein the first, second and third data structures are XML structures.

13. (Currently Amended) An object schema generation system comprising:  
a code reader component adapted to read code from a program or set of programs;  
an object schema generation component that retrieves or is provided with code from the code reader component and produces an object schema which provides metadata concerning objects to facilitate persistence of object data to a data store, wherein the generated object schema is utilized together with a relational schema and a mapping schema to map object data to tables in the data store; wherein the mapping schema provides the mapping between the object schema and the relational schema, and the relational schema utilizes metadata associated with the data store to generate an implementation specific format that represents the data store structure; and

wherein the object schema provides information concerning classes, members of classes, and their relationships and wherein properties of the members of classes include an alias attribute that is employed by a query language to identify a private member used to generate a query, the alias points to a public member that is to be utilized in place of the associated private member in text of a query; and

wherein the object schema generation component utilizes rule based artificial intelligence to produce the schema.

14. (Original) The system of claim 13, further comprising a data store information component adapted to provide the schema generation component with information concerning the data store.

15. (Canceled)

16. (Original) The system of claim 15, wherein the program is specified in an object oriented language.

17. (Original) The system of claim 16, wherein the program contains a plurality of object classes and fields.

18. (Canceled)

19. (Canceled)
20. (Canceled)
21. (Original) The system of claim 13, wherein the object schema generation component employs a Bayesian network to infer proper schema structures and relationships.
22. (Currently Amended) A method for producing an object schema comprising:  
specifying classes to be persisted to a data store;  
identifying members of each class, wherein the members of each class comprise compound members that allow mapping of complex members as inline members of a given class, which allows inline mapping of arrays, structs and entity key members;  
specifying relationships between classes, wherein the specified classes, members, and relationships provide information that can be utilized by a computer to persist object data to the data store, and wherein an object schema that describes data classes as well as relations between the data classes as specified in an object oriented model, is generated and utilized together with a relational schema and a mapping schema to map the object data to tables in the data store;  
wherein the mapping schema provides the mapping between the object schema and the relational schema, and the relational schema utilizes metadata associated with the database to generate an implementation specific format that represents the data store structure; and  
identifying a name of a member to be used as an alias to query a private member, wherein an alias attribute that is employed by a query language to identify a private member is used to generate a query, the alias points to a public member that is to be utilized in place of the associated private member in text of a query.
23. (Original) The method of claim 22, wherein the classes represent objects defined by an object oriented language.
24. (Original) The method of claim 23, wherein the data store is a relational database.

- 25. (Original) The method of claim 22, further comprising specifying a member key.
- 26. (Canceled)
- 27. (Original) The method of claim 22, wherein the member associated with a class is a field or property.
- 28. (Original) The method of claim 27, wherein the member is a compound member comprising at least one field or property and another compound member.
- 29. (Original) The method of claim 28, wherein the compound member is an array.
- 30. (Original) The method of claim 22, wherein the relationship between classes is one of one-to-one, one-to-many, and many-to-many.
- 31. (Original) The method of claim 22, wherein specifying class relationships comprises specifying a parent class and a child class.
- 32. (Original) The method of claim 31, further comprising specifying child members associated with the parent and child classes.
- 33. (Original) A computer readable medium having stored thereon computer executable instructions for carrying out the method of claim 22.

34. (Currently Amended) A method for generating an object schema comprising:  
receiving program code that describes one or more classes which define objects;  
describing members of each class, wherein the members of each class comprise compound members that allow mapping of complex members as inline members of a given class, which allows inline mapping of arrays, structs and entity key members;  
receiving input from a developer;  
generating an object schema to be employed to facilitate mapping object components from an object oriented program to tables in a relational database, wherein the generated object schema is utilized together with a relational schema and a mapping schema to map object components to the tables in the database;  
wherein the mapping schema provides the mapping between the object schema and the relational schema, and the relational schema utilizes metadata associated with the database to generate an implementation specific format that represents the database structure;  
wherein members of a class include fields and properties; and  
wherein the member properties include an alias attribute that is employed by a query language to identify a private member used to generate a query, the alias points to identify a public member that is to be utilized in place of a the associated private member in text of a query.
35. (Original) The method of claim 34, wherein the developer provides input *via* a graphical user interface.
36. (Canceled)
37. (Original) The method of claim 34, wherein the schema is an XML schema.
38. (Original) The method of claim 34, wherein receiving input from a developer comprises identifying classes to be persisted and specifying relations amongst classes.
39. (Original) A computer readable medium having stored thereon computer executable instructions for carrying out the method of claim 34.